

Message Text

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15

ACTION EA-09

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FM AMEMBASSY BANGKOK

TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 1073

INFO AMEMBASSY CANBERRA IMMEDIATE

AMEMBASSY MANILA IMMEDIATE

AMEMBASSY WELLINGTON IMMEDIATE

AMEMBASSY LONDON IMMEDIATE

CINCPAC HONOLULU HI

C O N F I D E N T I A L BANGKOK 19049

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: SEATO, TH

SUBJECT: 20TH COUNCIL MEETING

REF: A. BANGKOK 18950

B. STATE 214095

SUMMARY: PHILIPPINE COUNCIL REP MAINTAINED GOP RESERVATIONS ON THE THREE BASIC DOCUMENTS CONSIDERED BY COUNCIL REPS ON 10 SEPTEMBER FOR THE COUNCIL MINISTER'S MEETING. OTHER FIVE COUNCIL REPS FAVORED TEXT OF DOCUMENTS AS DRAFTED WITHOUT PHILIPPINE RESERVATIONS. THE FIVE UNANIMOUSLY EXPRESSED HOPE THAT DIFFERENCES COULD BE RECONCILED PRIOR TO MINISTER'S MEETING ON 24 SEPTEMBER AND AGREED TO COUNCIL REPS MEETING IN NEW YORK ON 23 SEPTEMBER. END SUMMARY.

1. COUNCIL REPS MEETING 10 SEPTEMBER FAILED TO REACH UNANIMOUS AGREEMENT ON THE KEY DOCUMENTATION FOR COUNCIL MINISTER'S MEETING IN NEW YORK (REFTEL A). THE PHILIPPINE COUNCIL REP HELD TO THE STRONG POSITION ALREADY TAKEN BY
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HIS PWG MEMBER AND OBVIOUSLY HAD NO INSTRUCTIONS TO REACH

A COMPROMISE.

2. THE U.K. CHAIRMAN, SIR DAVID COLE, FOCUSED ON THE ISOLATED PHILIPPINE STANCE BY POLLING OTHER COUNCIL REPS WHO WERE IN ACCORD WITH THE LANGUAGE CONTAINED IN THE DOCUMENTS REAFFIRMING THAT THE MANILA TREATY SHALL REMAIN IN FORCE. ALL COUNCIL REPS REFLECTED THE HOPE THAT THE DIFFERENCES COULD BE RECONCILED BEFORE THE COUNCIL MINISTERS MEET. ALL CONCURRED IN THE THAI COUNCIL REP'S SUGGESTION THAT COUNCIL REPS CONVENE IN NEW YORK ON 23 SEPTEMBER TO REVIEW THE RESULTS OF CONSULTATIONS OVER THE NEXT FORTNIGHT, AND AGREED WITH THE U.K. CHAIRMAN'S ESTIMATE THAT CONTACTS AMONG THE GOVERNMENTS BETWEEN NOW AND THE COUNCIL MEETING WERE THE ONLY SOLUTION TO THE CURRENT IMPASSE. THE CHAIRMAN ADDED THAT IT WOULD PROVE UNFORTUNATE IF THE COUNCIL MINISTER'S MEETING TO PHASE OUT SEATO WERE CONFRONTED WITH THE CURRENT DIVERGENT VIEWS AS SUCH A DENOUEMENT COULD ONLY GIVE COMFORT TO THOSE WHO ARE NOT OUR FRIENDS.

3. THE PWG MET IMMEDIATELY FOLLOWING COUNCIL REPS AND, WITH PHILIPPINE CONCURRENCE, AGREED THAT THE DOCUMENTS SHOULD BE PREPARED TO INCLUDE BRACKETS AROUND THE GOP RESERVATIONS WITH FOOTNOTES REFERRING TO THE SUBSTANCE OF THEIR POSITION. IF INTERIM CONSULTATIONS CAN RECONCILE THE GOP POSITION, THE THREE DOCUMENTS WILL BE REISSUED IN NEW YORK FOLLOWING COUNCIL REPS MEETING ON 23 SEPTEMBER.

4. COMMENT: THE RTG HAS BEEN CAUGHT COMPLETELY BY SURPRISE AND IS DISTINCTLY UNHAPPY OVER THE NEW PHILIPPINE RESERVATION. THEY HAVE ONLY JUST BEGUN TO DEAL WITH THIS PROBLEM, WHICH PLACES THEM IN AN AWKWARD ADVERSARY POSITION WITH THE ONLY OTHER REGIONAL MEMBER. THE PHILIPPINE EMBASSY IN BANGKOK ALSO APPEARS TO BE OFF BALANCE, BUT THEY ARE OBLIGED TO FOLLOW INSTRUCTIONS. WE EXPECT THE RTG WILL IMMEDIATELY COMMENCE BILATERAL CONSULTATION WITH THE GOP, BUT THE CURRENT DIVERGENCE ULTIMATELY AFFECTS ALL MANILA PACT MEMBERS IN VARYING DEGREE. THE DEPARTMENT MAY WISH TO CONSIDER SOME CONFIDENTIAL

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APPROACH TO GENERAL ROMULO IN NEW YORK AND/OR THROUGH OUR EMBASSY IN MANILA IN ORDER TO CONVINCE THE GOP OF THE ADVERSE AFFECT WHICH WILL RESULT FROM GOING INTO THE COUNCIL MINISTER'S MEETING WITH THEIR ISOLATED VIEW ON THE MANILA TREATY.
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